

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-54. (Cancelled)

55. (Currently amended) An apparatus Apparatus for breaking rock which includes, the apparatus comprising:

a first cartridge ~~with having~~ a base and a side wall which form an enclosure; [[,]]

a propellant inside the enclosure; [[,]]

~~a first pressure wave deforming means which is exposed to a pressure wave generated by initiating the propellant; and~~

~~a second pressure wave deforming means which is exposed to the pressure wave generated by initiating the propellant;~~

~~wherein the first pressure wave deforming means comprises a discontinuous relatively weaker region of the container is formed at the junction between the side wall of the first cartridge and the base of the first cartridge, and at least one~~

~~wherein the second pressure wave deforming means member which is exposed to a pressure wave generated by initiating the propellant and which is selected from the following: comprises at least one suitably shaped member disposed inside the first cartridge or outside the first cartridge[[;]], or at least one suitably shaped member disposed inside the propellant positioned at a desired distance relatively to away from the base of the first cartridge.~~

56. (Currently Amended) The apparatus Apparatus according to claim 55, wherein the first cartridge is shaped to direct a wave of pressurised pressurized material, produced by the propellant when initiated, towards a periphery of the base.

57. (Currently Amended) The apparatus Apparatus according to claim 55, further comprising which includes at least one high-explosive charge disposed on the first cartridge or inside the first cartridge.

58. (Currently Amended) The apparatus Apparatus according to claim 55, wherein the first cartridge is made from a plastically deformable material.

59. (Currently Amended) The apparatus Apparatus according to claim 55, wherein the second pressure wave deforming means which includes at least one member, which is made from a material which has a density greater than the density of the propellant, disposed on the first cartridge or inside the first cartridge.

60. (Currently Amended) The apparatus Apparatus according to claim 59, wherein the member that is made from a material which has a density greater than the density of the propellant is turned into a high pressure jet by the action of the propellant when it is ignited.

61. (Currently Amended) The apparatus Apparatus according to claim 59, wherein an explosive, which acts directly on the member that is made from a material which has a density greater than the density of the propellant, is used to generate a high pressure jet of the material.

62. (Currently Amended) The apparatus Apparatus according to claim 55, further comprising: which includes

an explosive; [[,]] and
a control unit which is operable to initiate initiates the propellant at a first predetermined time and which detonates to detonate the explosive at a second predetermined time.

63. (Currently Amended) The apparatus Apparatus according to claim 55, further comprising which includes at least first and second initiators for initiating the propellant at respective first and second points within the first cartridge,

wherein the first and second points which are spaced apart from each other inside the first cartridge.

64. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for breaking rock, the apparatus comprising:

a first cartridge which forms a first enclosure;

a first propellant inside the first enclosure;

Apparatus according to claim 55 which includes

a second cartridge which forms an a second enclosure;

for a second propellant inside the second enclosure: [,]

a first pressure wave deforming means which is exposed to a pressure wave generated by initiating the first propellant; and

a second pressure wave deforming means which is exposed to a pressure wave generated by initiating the second propellant;

each cartridge including a respective wherein the first cartridge includes a first initiator for initiating the first propellant,

wherein the second cartridge includes a second initiator for initiating the second propellant in the respective enclosure, and

wherein the first and second cartridges are positioned in an assembly with the first and second initiators disposed at opposed remote points in the assembly.